

REMARKS

Claims 1-81 were examined. Claims 1-10, 18-19, 21, 23, 34, 36-37, 39-46, 64-72, and 78-81 are rejected. Dependent claims 11-17, 20, 22, 24-33, 35, 38, 47-63, and 73-77 were objected to as allowable if written in independent form.

Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 14, 18, 32, 35, 38, 61, 64, 73-76 and 80; cancel claims 11, 20 and 72; and submit that no new matter is added herein. For example, amendments to claims 1, 12, 14, 18, 35, 38, 61, 64, 73-76 and 80 are to create allowable independent claims based on allowable subject matter indicated in Section 8 of the current Office Action. Specifically, allowable subject matter of claim 11 is incorporated into claim 1, of claim 20 is incorporated into claim 18, and of claim 72 is incorporated into claim 64. In addition, allowable subject matter from claims 72-75 is incorporated into claim 80. Hence, Applicants believe that no further prosecution issues remain as all of the independent claims include subject matter found allowable according to Section 8 of the current Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-10, 12-19, 21-71 and 73-81.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 18, 19, 21, 23, 34, 36-37, 39-46, 64, 70-72, and 78-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,353,654 to Granfors et al. (Granfors) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,996,288 to Sun (Sun). To render a claim obvious, all limitations of that claim be taught or suggested by all informed properly combined reference.

As noted above, all of the claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for the remaining claims.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Patent Office's indication that claims 11-17, 20, 22, 24-33, 35, 38, 47-63, and 73-77 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, Applicants have amended the claims to include allowable subject matter. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office allow all of the remaining claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Amber D. Saunders

Date